

December 20, 2003 that many members of the Kazanjian family and friends gathered to remember this beautiful girl and a horrible, tragic loss.

Kaitlin Kazanjian was taken from us too soon. Her sudden loss has devastated her family and friends. Despite this terrible tragedy, a wonderful outpouring of support has helped Kaitlin's loved ones cope and continue on with their lives.

On Friday, May 14, 2004, and each year following, the Kazanjian Family and friends will continue to honor the memory of Kaitlin with the establishment of the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Charitable Foundation, which will benefit local charity organizations.

But the true tribute to Kaitlin will lie in the hearts of family and friends and the unflinching commitment to honor her life and preserve her legacy and memory.

DEPLORING ABUSE OF PERSONS IN UNITED STATES CUSTODY IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 627.

We could have passed a resolution with unanimous support today. American abuses of Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison are deplorable. They are inhumane. They are immoral. They are inimical to everything America stands for. We universally condemn them.

And there is also unanimous support that every perpetrator of these crimes must be punished, that their superiors must be held accountable, and that our government must ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

This resolution would not be on the floor today, and our international standing would not be in tatters, if the administration had acted differently. The administration's instinct to ignore bad news and suppress evidence of mistakes is fundamentally wrong. It is telling that just a few days ago, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that they hadn't even read Major General Taguba's March 9 damning report on the abuses.

This administration has failed the military, the American people, the Iraqi people, and the international community. A congressional investigation is critical to get to the bottom of this scandal and to attempt to salvage what is left of our standing in the world.

That is why H. Res. 627 is so disappointing. We were presented with a resolution that "urges" the Secretary of the Army to investigate abuses at Abu Ghraib prison and "reaffirms the need for Congress to be frequently updated."

This resolution asks the Bush administration to investigate itself. Yet this is an administration that does not even acknowledge mistakes, let alone accept responsibility to correct them. It has never found the person responsible for leaking the identity of a covert CIA agent to the press. It took no action against Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin, deputy under secretary of defense for intelligence and war-fighting, for his egregious anti-Muslim statements.

It responded to Richard Clarke's revelations with an all-out assault on his character and reputation. To this day, the administration has not accounted for its use of bad intelligence to justify the war in Iraq, including the fabricated claims that Iraq attempted to obtain uranium from Niger.

In effect, this resolution abdicates Congress' institutional oversight responsibilities. This is a profound mistake. Just think how different our situation would be today if Congress had not relinquished its constitutional obligation to investigate the administration's many Iraq policy failures.

The resolution neatly concludes—without evidence—that only "a handful of individuals" are involved in prisoner abuse. But none of us knows how many individuals were involved or how high up the chain of command they go.

This resolution also fails to mention the two private companies, CACI International and Titan Corporation, which have contract employees at Abu Ghraib prison. According to accused soldiers, civilian contractors conducted interrogations and "urged military police . . . to take steps to make prisoners more responsive to questioning." One of the soldiers has claimed that civilian contractors were involved in an interrogation that left a prisoner dead. Military investigators have said that a CACI instructor was fired for allowing or instructing military police to "facilitate interrogations by setting [unauthorized] conditions." And in his damning report, Major General Antonio Taguba concluded that two CACI employees were among those "either directly or indirectly responsible for the abuse at Abu Ghraib."

Yet the resolution simply ignores these facts and the serious implications they raise.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership could have achieved a unanimous vote in a constructive, bipartisan effort if it had chosen to. But instead it decided to put before the House a resolution asking this administration to hold itself accountable. That is simply the wrong approach.

Congress must accept its constitutional duties and conduct a thorough investigation. And we must work as hard as we can to try to begin to repair the damage that has been done.

IN HONOR OF SISTER JEANNE
O'LAUGHLIN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 10, 2004

Mr. MEEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the achievements of a truly great and gifted leader in our community. On June 20, 2004, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin will step down as president of Barry University. To the people in South Florida, that is almost like saying that the sun will rise from now on in the North, it is that big a change, because Sister Jeanne, as she is affectionately known to virtually everyone, has contributed so much to the best of who we are, and what we would like to become. I am proud to be a member of the board of directors of Barry University, so I have worked with Sister Jeanne and seen her work first-hand.

Sister Jeanne has served as Barry University's fifth president for the past 23 years. In

1981, she took over the helm of what was then Barry College, a small Catholic institution of higher learning in Miami Shores, FL, with 1,750 students. It was not long, however, until she brought her considerable power to bear on building up Barry College—not for the sake of construction, although construct she did. She added 38 buildings to the institution, doubled the number of academic schools, increased the number of students to over 9,000 and turned Barry into a full-fledged University—now the fourth largest private University in Florida.

She built up the University in order to meet specific and critical needs in our community and in our nation. She saw that there were increasing needs for highly trained health professionals; Sister Jeanne saw to it that Barry University met that need. She saw that minority students had trouble getting into college; she established programs at Barry to create new opportunities for them, making Barry one of the leading minority-graduating institutions in Florida. She also looked outside her campus and saw needs in the surrounding neighborhoods, and created curriculums and programs focused on the people living there.

Sister Jeanne will always be known for her commitment to issues she held dear, such as the advancement of women in education and in human rights at home and abroad. When three young Chinese women sought political asylum in South Florida, it was Sr. O'Laughlin who took up their cause and got the Immigration and Naturalization Service to withdraw its opposition to political asylum, thereby allowing the three young women to stay. And when young Haitian children needed sponsors to get out of government detention and into the community, Sister Jeanne was there to make that happen.

Sister Jeanne has chaired many charities and non-profits, and has used her fundraising skills to help countless organizations. A measure of her influence was her membership in the Non-Group in Miami, which was composed of the most important movers and shakers in the community. She held her own with the CEOs of billion-dollar corporations, just as she did with the parents of children in her neighborhood who needed health care but could not pay for it. Her honors and accolades are countless, and her accomplishments are extraordinary—mostly because she is so good and so great, that it is impossible to tell her no.

Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin was the engine that powered tremendous growth and expanded opportunity at Barry University, and has been a symbol of enlightened and integrity. As she now moves into a new period of her life, I wish her joy and happiness: I know she will be successful. Her involvement and contribution have left an indelible mark on Barry University, on all of South Florida, and indeed on everyone who ever had the good fortune of crossing her path.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees